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EXAMINER

AMINI, JAVID A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2672

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7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

7

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/673,313

Applicant(s)

GEISLER, THOMAS

Examiner

Javid A Amini

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6, 8-11 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van de Lavoie et al.

1. Claim 1.

“A method for representing objects in bitmapped format on a matrix like display device, having the following steps: calculation of a plurality of bit maps for a certain number of various object representations along a predetermined path curve in advance; storage of the plurality of bit maps in memory in advance; and execution of a representation processing with a display sequence of object representations along the path curve by reading and displaying correspondingly memorized bit maps”, Van de Lavoie discloses in Fig. 23 step 372 that, the parse tree is again traversed to assign position coordinates and icon rendering data (e.g., bitmaps) to each node. Van de Lavoie illustrates in Fig. 7b example of the representation of a process control statement using dynamic graphical icons. In this case is representing the delay time along a predetermined path curve in advance, also see Figs. 13a and b (col. 21, lines 30-45). Van de Lavoie discloses in (col. 8, lines 15-20) the process control computer will typically include data storage capability, often in the form of random access memory. This memory may be used to store the digital and analog input and output values by suitably encoding the values into a form capable of being stored as binary digits in the computer memory.

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Van de Lavoir illustrates in Fig. 16b, the live data module is responsible for collection, storage and conversion (formatting) of the real time values of all process control computer variables that are present in the currently displayed program statement. Van de Lavoir discloses in (col. 35, lines 5-14) as indicated at step 372 Fig. 23, the parse tree is again traversed to assign position coordinates and icon rendering data (e.g., bitmaps) to each node (col. 35, lines 31). But Van de Lavoir does not explicitly specify the calculation of bit maps for a certain number of various objects. It would be have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to visual appearance of a data logical flow or logic flow, in order to allow the visual quality or color of the symbols and the interconnecting network to change in accordance with live data received from the plant or process being controlled.

1. Claim 2.

“The method of claim 1, characterized in that in the calculation of the plurality of bit maps in advance, a filtration is performed for the sake of edge smoothing in the local region”,

The step is obvious because the filtration and calculation illustrated by Van de Lavoir in Fig. 20.

2. Claim 3.

“The method of claim 1, characterized in that an associated precalculated and pre-stored background image has the various object representations superimposed on it”, the step is inherent Van de Lavoir illustrates in Fig. 7a.

3. Claim 4.

“The method of claim 1, characterized in that the spatial difference between adjacent object representations along the path curve, which are precalculated and pre-stored as a respective bit

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map, is substantially smaller than the applicable object representations”, the step is inherent Van de Lavois illustrates in Fig. 7a.

4. Claim 5.

“The method of claim 1, characterized in that for displaying object representations, which are located between two object representations having a respective precalculated and pre-stored bit map, a paired interpolation between the corresponding pixel values is performed”, the step is ^{obvious} inherent because Van de Lavois discloses in (col. 37, lines 23-26) Although the dynamic control of visual quality or color of the icons themselves is comparatively straightforward, evaluating the visual quality or color of the incoming (left) and outgoing (right)

5. Claim 6.

“The method of claim 5, characterized in that the pixel values are present separately in accordance with certain colors, preferably the three fundamental colors of red, green and blue, and the interpolation is performed separately for each color”, Van de Lavois discloses in (col. 2, lines 32-44) In one form of the present invention, the variable graphic characteristic or visual quality of the graphical symbols includes the use of colors which may be recognized by people who otherwise have difficulty perceiving certain colors. Thus, for example, the color blue (any color) is used to indicate a TRUE condition, whereas the color orange is used to indicate a FALSE condition. By employing a consistent set of graphical symbols and applying a consistent set of rules for arranging these graphical symbols, the status of any process may be quickly conveyed to any qualified user, regardless of computer hardware platform employed and regardless of the native language of the user.

6. Claim 8.

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“The method of claim 1, characterized in that a compression of the pre-stored bit map data is performed”, the step is inherent because Van de Lavoir discloses in (col. 31, lines 54-57) the hidden pipe algorithm is called when the entire uncompressed graphical representation of a program statement will not fit in the display area of the window. It means data are compressed.

7. Claim 9

The method of claim 1, characterized in that the method is employed on a dashboard display device, located on board a motor vehicle, for representing a pointer. The step is ^{obvious} ~~inherent~~ because the different locations of the method are not significant to the concept of the invention.

8. Claim 11, (new): “The method of claim 9 or 10, wherein an associated pre-calculated and pre-stored background image is a corresponding speed scale”. The step is ^{obvious} ~~inherent~~ because the speed scale is resulted from pre-stored or calculated data information.

Claims 7, 10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van de Lavoir et al. in view of Iwamoto et al.

9. Claim 7.

The method of claim 6, characterized in that for the interpolation, the mean value for each pixel, weighted in accordance with the intermediate position, is calculated. Van de Lavoir does not explicitly specify the mean value for each pixel, however the step is obvious because Iwamoto teaches in (col. 9, lines 1-5) an average value is determined by the average value processing portion, and a fluctuation ratio is determined by fluctuation processing portion. And also one of the functions of the display controller is to calculates the mean value and weighted values of the pixels. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Iwamoto into Van de Lavoir in order to

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displays data in a machine having a plurality of sensors which detect such data value as speed, pressure and temperature. A converter is then used to process output signals from these sensors. The apparatus further includes an input-calibration device for correcting the output signals from the converter and for issuing detected data, a cycle data processing mechanism for displaying data items such as injection speed and injection pressure every cycle based on the detected data, and control data processing mechanism for displaying shot-time items and fluctuations through repeated injection cycles to monitor operation based on the detected data from the input-calibration means.

10. Claim 10, (new): "The method of claim 9, wherein the pointer is a speedometer pointer, and wherein a pointer bitmap corresponding to a speed is read and displayed at a given time".

Van de Lavoie does not explicitly specify the speedometer, however Iwamoto et al. teaches in (col. 4, lines 50-61) that, each channel representation is divided into two rows, wherein an upper row is used for displaying calibration-data type such as "INPUT VOLTAGE" and a lower row is used for displaying position name for sensors, such as "SPEEDOMETER".

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Iwamoto into Van de Lavoie in order to appreciate that computer technology has developed and continues to develop at a rapid pace. Thus, it is possible that a variety of different computer hardware platforms and software packages may be employed for process control systems at one or more sites, even when the processes involved are the similar or the same.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1 and 2 recite the limitation " calculation of a plurality of bit maps ". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Applicant should be able to show the complete calculation for the above limitation.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Javid A Amini whose telephone number is 703-605-4248. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi can be reached on 703-305-4713. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-8705 for regular communications and 703-746-8705 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.

Javid A Amini
Examiner
Art Unit 2672

Javid Amini
April 17, 2003



MICHAEL RAZAVI
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